



## **Out-of-Town Eligibility Connection to Town of Breckenridge Water System Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. *Who is eligible to connect to the Town's water system?***

With the addition of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> water plant, all properties located between the Goose Pasture Tarn and Dillon Reservoirs in the Upper Blue Basin can be considered for connecting to Town's water.

### **2. *Why should I connect to the Town's water system?***

The advantages of being on the Town's system vs. a well are quite simply less maintenance and more reliability, which equates to less headaches and hassles for you as the homeowner.

The Town's water system provides quality, dependable and consistent water. We test the water in strict accordance to state regulations. The Town is responsible for the maintenance of the water main lines; the property owner is responsible for maintaining the service line from the water main line to the house.

Wells can be costly to repair or replace. Wells may not have consistent pressure or sufficient supply in times of drought. Well water may likely have more minerals which could leave residue in toilets, sinks, showers, tubs and other places in your home.

Other benefits to being on a municipal water system include possible lower homeowner insurance rates when water lines and hydrants are near your property. Another benefit is to improve the water table levels by lessening the drain from current wells, which is good for future generations.

### **3. *What if my property is not adjacent to a water main line?***

If the water main is not adjacent to your property, it will need to be extended to your property. Typically, a neighborhood or a group of neighbors will join together to share this cost.

### **4. *If I extend a water main to my property can anyone else tie onto that water main?***

You can enter into a water line payback agreement with the Town, which provides a payback to the property owner who paid to extend the water main as other properties connect to the extended water main. The agreement sets out the number of years the agreement will be in effect and the amount of money a property has to pay to the people who extended the water main. The Town collects the money and distributes it back to those who paid to extend the water main.

### **5. *Will I have to take care of the water line?***

If you extend a water main line, the Town's Water Division will then maintain the line. The customer is responsible for the service line from where it connects to the water main to the house or building.



**6. *Can I water outdoors?***

Yes, the connection to the Town's water system allows you to water at no additional cost, as long as usage does not exceed the basic rate allotment (10,000 gallons per billing cycle). However, we strongly encourage conservation by planting water-wise vegetation and using efficient irrigation systems.

**7. *How much does it cost to connect to the Town's water system?***

The basic cost to connect to the Town's water system is a one-time Plant Investment Fee (PIF), which is based on the size and type of property, or number of Single Family Equivalents (SFE). For more information and current rates, please visit [www.townofbreckenridge.com/PIFRates](http://www.townofbreckenridge.com/PIFRates). For property located outside-of-Town boundaries, the PIF is multiplied by 1.25.

Other costs such as excavating, restoration and installing the service line and meter are the responsibility of the property owner and can vary depending on the location of the water main relative to the property.

**8. *How much are the water rates and fees?***

In 2016, the rate for an out-of-Town water account is \$51.68/SFE/billing cycle. The Town charges out-of-Town water users 1.5 times the in-Town rate and a billing cycle is 2 months. The number of SFEs depends on the size and the type of the property. The current schedule of rates for SFEs (Town Code 12-4-10) can be found at [www.townofbreckenridge.com/WaterRates](http://www.townofbreckenridge.com/WaterRates).

For 2016, the Water Service Maintenance Fee is \$4/SFE/billing cycle, which is used to upgrade existing infrastructure such as water mains, pumps, and meters.

The Town's rates are typically lower than other Colorado municipalities. See comparisons at [www.townofbreckenridge.com/WaterRateComparison](http://www.townofbreckenridge.com/WaterRateComparison).

**9. *Will there be rate increases in the future?***

Because the Town pays for the operation of the water plants with water rates, the Town typically increases rates on a yearly basis to cover the increasing costs of operating the water system. Rates are set annually during the budget adoption process; we expect rates to increase between 3% to 5% in the next few years.

**10. *Do I have to annex into the Town?***

Not necessarily. The Town will consider and evaluate the circumstances of each property before determining if annexation is required. If the property is annexed, then the PIF and water rates will be charged at the lower in-town rate.

**11. *Where do I go for more information?***

Please visit [www.TownofBreckenridge.com/Water](http://www.TownofBreckenridge.com/Water), and click on NEW: Out-of-Town Eligibility to view a map of the current system and FAQs. Or simply call the Public Works Water Division at (970) 453-3378 and we'll be happy to review and evaluate your specific situation.